Rec March 7th

Kew, Feb. 19, 1887.

My Dear Engelmann.

A few days – or say a week – ago we were gratified by receiving your pleasant letter of the 31st Jany. I hasten to reply, before we get afloat again, when writing becomes precarious. Just now Mrs. Gray & I have our evenings together in our quiet lodgings, i.e. whenever we are not dining out or the like, which is pretty often.

You know of our movements thus up to our return here. The Spanish trip was very pleasant and successful, and the 3 weeks afterward in Paris pretty useful & enjoyable. As to Botany it was all given to Aster & Solidago, at the Jardin des Plantes, and at Cosson's – who has the best of Schult. Bip. which abounds with pickings from many an herbarium. We got over here early in Dec.r, and here I have worked almost every week-day till now, excepting one short visit

* Willdenow's Asters were sent over to me ~~here~~!

down in Gloucestershire, and a recent trip to Cambridge — where, however, a good piece of those mornings was devoted to Lindley's Asters. I have the types now of all the other species of N. Am. Aster, Linnean, Lamarckian, Aitonian, Willdenovian*, Kuntzian, one of Lamarck's, which I could not trace in the old materials at Paris, and Rüpper writes me that it is not in Lam. As to Vieras, Asters, most of them are plainly as named by him directly or indirectly. But where, on the dispersion of his herb^m — where the Compositae went to nobody seems to know, tho' I have tried hard to find out. Have you any idea. But he made horrid work with the Asters, and the Gardens all along, from the very first have made confusion worse confounded. No authentic specimen — of the older or the present time, is, per se, of any authority whatever.

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I am deeply mortified to tell you that — with some little exception, all my botanical work for autumn & winter has been given to Aster (after 5 or 6 months at home), and they are not done yet! Never was there so rascally a genus! I know at length what the types of the old species are. But how to settle limits of species, I think I never shall know. There are few characters to go by in the group of Vulgar Asters — the other groups go very well. I give to these one more day — not so much to make up my mind how to treat ~~them~~ a set or two, as then to lay them aside, with some memoranda, to try at again on getting home, before beginning to print. The group now left to puzzle me is of Western — Pacific — Rocky Mt. — species. The specimens you have collected for me last summer, when I get them, may help me — or may reduce me to blank despair!

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I have no means to tell you. A week from this we and the Hooker's are to cross to Paris & Rome & Italy — to Naples as soon as may be. But Hooker's Story is drawn with pressure & he cannot be taken quite out to the country where he is to stay. It may delay the Hooker's a few days and make our stay in Paris rather longer. If you are not coming to join us, — as we hope or at least wish, — drop us a letter to reach us in Rome a month hence. You should — till further notice address me to Care of Baring Brothers & Co, London. The surest & ~~easiest~~ easiest way. If you come over, you will find them any address at any time.

Our severe cold has been followed by dense fogs — no sun & hardly any daylight, for a week. This is more trying than the cold to us, and more in the way for work.

Well, my sheet is full. Mrs. Gray sends her love to you & joins in kindest remembrances to George & his wife,

Always affectionately Yours

Asa Gray

Ans (by Thornton) Sept 29
Nov 18

Richmond House, Kew
August 22, 1881.

My dear Engelmann

Thanks for your very pleasant letter of the 24th July, from the Rocky Mountains; and accept our congratulations upon the good health and vigor which you are enjoying!

I had a letter to-day from Canby, who tells me that you have been making out a new sp. of Isuga in the Carolina Mountains! I knew there was a little Is. Canadensis there, but who would have thought of a second!

Mrs Engelmann sends love to you, & his wife. Bartram

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As to Gentian — posterandry, I am not surprised at what you say of the self-fertilization of G. acuta. ~~H. Müller~~ Hermann Müller (says) that various ordinarily cross-fertilized species in the Alps or at certain seasons take on self-fertilization, thus accommodating itself to circumstances.

We are to return home about the end of October, so we shall not be there when you come over — but shall see you on the way at Cambridge!

Hooker's family is out in the country just now. I & H. in and out, & very busy, and so am I, besides little country visits to pay, so we don't see much of each other at present.

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the letter for Dr Asa to Mark next week.

I have done all I can do here at the Atlas – except a record or two, & a look at some in Gardens. But I am still very hazy about the far-west species. There never will be real satisfaction with them. I shall have to take one nine turn at them, at home, putting my mss. in final order.

I kept very clear of the Great Botanical ~~Congr~~ Congress in London, and saw really our Amer. Dve-tors, tho', we went to two garden-parties.

When I get a good chance I shall read your letter to Hooker. But his head is now full of Palms, for the Gran Pl. Dear old Bentham has essentially finished the Grasses, & now takes some other orders. He told me to-day that he

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named for the Liliaceae —

About the two species of Campanula, I did not know that you had touched them. I have taken them in hand to-day, and what I can now say is this.

C. uniflora L. Our highest alpine species = Eu. & Greenland plant.

C. — you are right, its capsule dehisces near top. — Also, I have never seen ripe fruit & it is not C. Scheuchzeri.

But I think I have associated it rightly with C. heterodoxa, Bmg. I judge here, from insufficient material that this also dehisces near top. I think my herb. will settle that, & wish I could wait till I get home.

But this is not C. heterodoxa Nyst. which is clearly of the rotundifolia type, a small-flowered C. linifolia. Not only at Balsin can Alaska's species be made out. Perhaps a new name must come in, but whether one or two? I could judge at Cambridge better than here. —

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Ans. Dec 19 1881
A. — 24 Cambridge. Dec. 13, 81.

My dear old friend

It is shabby of me to wait so long in response to your kindly greetings, which have dated on my birth-day Nov. 18. But I was very busy when it came, & hardly less so since, and so I let it get out of sight.

Well here we are once more — leaving dear friends on the other side, and now among our own kith & kin.

Glad to hear of your pleasant summer. & pretty good health now.

We had a favorable voyage home, which is more than those just before could say, and for more than any since. My wife, however, is

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not strong — fatigues too easily, and will not hold up when she should

Schultz. Bip. "Compositae belong to Compte d'Paris." Looking at them I see he was a poor stick.

Yes! Asters — this one Hort. I can see where find or hear of. But I don't believe this Hort. (which was sold five years) would have helped me much, considering how he has named Asters for other botanists.

You ask if they have in the Garden the Cactaceae you have — but this, I expect I don't know — must find out. We have

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a good many, growing very healthily, but the names are no-where.

The morning here has all gone to mine once Goodale took the garden from Sargent.

Accumulated collection of Lemna. Barrister Cusick to — especially, has taken all my time up to now — after getting my house in order. — a deal of trouble. And now I can think of getting at my Flora work again.

First of all I am to make complete as I can my MSS. for Schedeger & Sitter Schedeger I always find written hopeful. Sitter

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as to the Aster genuinis is my utter despair! Still I can work my way thro', except for the Rocky Mts. — Pacific species. At I will try them once more — tho I see not how to limit species, & to describe specimens is endless & hopeless. So send on your things. But first I am to prepare & print — perhaps insert in my final elaboration, and articles "Studies in Solidago & Aster" — taking the former first, giving an account of what I have made out in the old herbaria — stating investigations which I can only give the condensed result of in the ~~Flora~~ Flora — &c. — Considerable change as to some old species. Now the Solidago — than Aster is that way.

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Rec Dec 19 1881
Ans — 24

Dr Greene — as I learn from what he writes Watson, insists on his ~~Arizonica~~ Arizonica — without regard to your wishes or studies.

And I learn that he is going in to Coppite, to print lots of new species, — without any consideration of the trouble it will be giving me.

I enclose you Lemmon's late letter. I cannot believe that he is setting to work to intercept the plants which naturally come to us, from our old correspondents. I have written to ask him what it means, in all kindness and frankness. Please return Lemmon's letter.

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It is a foolish world, no doubt.

If this sort of thing goes on, it will settle me in the course I have much wished to pursue, i.e. to stop all side work on collections as they come in — drive mostly to encourage collectors — and to stick to Flora in regular course, not turning to right nor to the left.

My wife sends her kindest remembrances to you — to George & to his and wife

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Yes, you should go to
Europe next Spring. –
We are waiting for
you. Ever yours
most kindly
Asa Gray

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Dec. 30 81

My dear Engelmann

Here is a part of the specimen, just received, of the Gentiana which Lemmon delicately proposes to dedicate to his wife.

I have so poor a bit of Rattlesnake's from of your G. Wislizeni, that I can't say, but the ink is the same, yet it has a still shorter calyx-lobe, — much shorter than in your Wislizenus plant.

Rec'd Jan 3rd
Ans same day

Write and tell him if he should venture it or no.

This Lobelia n. sp. is L. fenestralis Cav.

This Ranunculus, new to us, but to be compared with Mexican species.

Best wishes for the New Year & thanks for a long letter, lately received.

Sincerely Yours

Asa Gray

G. Pleuraneura
good species no fringe; but glands
a real Arctophila. — calyx not unlike Amarella.

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